

THE ESTANCIA NEWS.

VOLUME I.

ESTANCIA, TORRANCE COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1904.

NUMBER 1.

ESTANCIA VALLEY

A PRODUCTIVE LAND OPEN TO SETTLERS. PLENTY OF GOOD WATER. GOOD SCHOOLS.

In the long years past, the "early settler," in crossing the almost trackless desert to secure supplies from the mountains, made a sojourn of several days for rest and recuperation at the widely known springs—the wanderer's Estancia. The whole valley embracing an area some fifty miles across and seventy-five in length, became known as the Estancia Valley. As the years wore on it was found that the whole valley was sub-irrigated and hence the fine pasturage and quick growth of native grasses. That such a valley should exist in the heart of the great Rockies at an elevation of 6,000 ft. above sea level is almost incredible, but such is the case nevertheless.

In 1819, one, Bartolomeo Baca, secured from the King of Spain, who then held sway throughout the great southwest, a grant to a certain tract of land, which included this great valley. In time other claimants appeared and litigation ensued. Through technicalities the whole thing after being carried up and up, was thrown out of the U. S. Supreme Court.

HOMESTEAD LANDS.

By the annulling of the Bartolomeo Baca Grant this vast tract receded to the U. S. Government and was thrown open for settlement under the Homestead Laws. Several townships have already been surveyed and applications are now pending for the balance. Homeseekers are coming almost daily, being drawn by the fertility of the soil, the ease of securing water for irrigation and the splendid climate. Although in the latitude of northern Alabama and South Carolina, the climate is free from extreme heat, being tempered by an altitude of about 6,000 feet. An abundance of water is secured by sinking wells to a depth of from ten to fifty feet. An attempt has been made near Estancia to secure artesian water, but at a depth of 320 feet the tools became lodged. The water, in the well stands within four feet of the surface of the ground and pumping has not altered it perceptibly.

SANTA FE CENTRAL.

Some two years since, Pennsylvania capitalists, having various interests at stake in the territory, conceived the idea of a connecting railroad through this valley, joining the Atchison, Topeka & Santa

Fe, the Denver & Rio Grande, and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, and on August 25th, 1903, the first train was run from Santa Fe, the terminus of the Denver & Rio Grande, to Torrance, 116 miles distant, on the El Paso & Northeast—which connects with the Rock Island at Tucumcari.

ESTANCIA.

A subterranean reservoir and a 50,000 gallon elevated tank were built near the Estancia Springs, and Estancia became the most important point on the road, because of the abundance and good quality of its water. Being almost midway between the termini of the road, it at once took its

COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

Three Tickets in the Field.

THE REPUBLICANS.

The Republicans of Torrance county met in delegate convention at Manzano, Oct. 1st, 1904. Col. J. Franco Chavez called the meeting to order and was chosen temporary chairman, with Diego Serna as secretary. Committees on credentials, permanent organization, and resolutions were appointed, and adjournment taken. The committee reported 49 names as qualified members of the convention. Moriarty precinct not being represented and one name from Cienega precinct being thrown out. The delegation from La Palma was not recognized by the committee

THE THREE TICKETS

NOMINATED IN CONVENTION BY THE SEVERAL PARTIES.

| | Republican | Independents | Democrats |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| COMMISSIONER | J. Franco Chavez | Raymundo Romero | Raymundo Romero |
| COMMISSIONER, 1st Dist. | Pablo Maldonado | Julius Meyer | Joe Stewart |
| " 2d Dist. | Helenia Conzelario | Teodoro Cradlerio | T. Labadie |
| " 3d Dist. | Thomas Baedrich | Thomas Baedrich | Antonio A. Salas |
| TEXAS & CO. CO. | Wm. McIntosh | Angus McGillivray | Modesto Martinez |
| ASSESSOR | Perfecto Jaramillo | Christino Chavez | Louis A. McKee |
| SHERIFF | Manuel Sanchez | Pedro Lucero | Pedro Chavez |
| PROBATE JUDGE | Diego Serna | Juan Jose Bonaville | A. H. Garnett |
| " CLERK | John W. Cobbett | Jose Ma. Torres | Roman Montano |
| SUPV. OF SCHOOLS | Juan C. Jaramillo | Antonio Salazar | J. W. Records |
| SCOUTS | J. H. T. F. | Hilario Romero | Angus E. Miller |

*Withdrawn

place as headquarters for shops, supply house, car sheds, offices, etc., for the road.

TORRANCE COUNTY.

The 35th session of the Territorial Legislature passed an act, creating the county of Torrance from parts of Valencia, Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Lincoln and Socorro. The new county is fifty-four miles from north to south and sixty from east to west, embracing 3,060 square miles; or a territory about three times as large as the whole state of Rhode Island, or about one-twelfth of the great state of Indiana. But withal that it is so large compared with eastern states, it embraces only one-fortieth of the Territory of New Mexico. The Santa Fe Central Railroad enters the county from the north, connecting with the El Paso & Northeastern, which crosses the southeastern part of the county. The projected Santa Fe cut-off will traverse the county from east to west, and when completed, will give Torrance county more railroad mileage than any other county in the territory.

But little has as yet really been attempted in the way of

(Continued on 4th page.)

as that is not an organized precinct.

The temporary organization was made permanent. In the report of the committee on resolutions, a committee on nominations consisting of one member from each precinct was advocated. This was dissented to by a number of delegates but they failed to secure recognition from the chair and the motion carried. The committee could not agree and failed to report. After repeated failures to secure recognition from the chair and having no voice in the convention, 25 of the 49 delegates walked out.

After adopting a platform and nominating a ticket, the convention adjourned.

THE INDEPENDENTS.

The Independent Republicans having withdrawn from the Manzano convention, held a meeting the same evening and decided to call a convention to meet at Punta de Agua October 5th. Primaries were called and delegates elected. The convention was adjourned to October 12th at the same place, when 50 delegates were given recognition, and a harmonious and enthusiastic

(Continued on 4th page.)

ESTANCIA EXHIBIT

AT TERRITORIAL FAIR A SPLENDID SHOWING. WINS FIRST PRIZE.

The First Prize for the Best and Largest Collection of Vegetables at the Territorial Fair last week was awarded to Estancia, Torrance County.

Although the past season has been the driest in the history of the country, the Estancia Valley sent a very creditable display of garden truck to the Territorial Fair at Albuquerque. This is the first year that truck patches have been planted to any extent in the Valley. Most of the ground was raw prairie plowed for the first time the past winter. Most of the planters were novices at irrigating, so that the whole thing is only an experiment and not by any means a test.

In the display is an Italian Pumpkin grown by Edward Sutter, which makes the mouth water to view it, as one cannot help thinking how many luscious pies its 35 pounds will make.

Mrs. A. W. Lentz has demonstrated what can be done in this valley. Rutabagas weighing as high as 8½ lbs., Oxheart Cabbage weighing 5 and 6 lbs. each. Irish Potatoes, (which it is said cannot be raised here at all) weighing 1½ lbs. each, were additions from this garden. Mrs. Harry Averill is another, who is justly proud of her efforts and the results in this line. Heads of Cauliflower, 12 inches in diameter, Flat Dutch Cabbage weighing way up in the teens of pounds. Red Beets, Pie Melon, Cucumbers, Kashaw, Field Corn and an enormous Sunflower enriched the collection here.

The garden of Mrs. W. C. Walker is another revelation of good things. A massive Turnip 30 inches in circumference, Flat Dutch Cabbage weighing 19 pounds to the head, and enormous Radishes must be credited to her.

Mr. A. H. Garnett added good specimens of turnips and beets. D. B. Allison shows some fine cabbage and collard from the Antelope Ranch. T. D. DeLong sent a jar of delectable gherkins. T. J. Heady, besides adding splendid samples of tomatoes, cucumber (weighing 3 lbs. 2 oz.), and turnips, shows what can be done with German Millet and Oats. Both samples are over four feet tall, the millet heads measuring seven inches and all well filled.

As we said at the outset this showing is not a test but it is an experiment and shows what

can be accomplished by a little exertion and push.

The Daily Citizen of Albuquerque has the following:

One of the surprising features of the territorial fair is the display of garden products from the Estancia valley in the new county of Torrance, especially surprising to those who know the conditions under which the products were grown. Turnips weighing ten pounds on first year sod during the driest season in the season in the history of New Mexico is pretty good even for this favored section.

Along some time last March while the wind was blowing a gale and the dust from the Rio Grande hid the Manzano mountains behind a cloud that seemed to foreshadow only evil for the pioneer settlers in this valley, a few of the women folks who know and appreciate the value of a good garden, began to talk about farming to their husbands, but met with little encouragement. The ground was dry as a bone and getting dryer, with no prospects of rain, and the outlook for successful gardening was anything but promising, but with the faith that moves mountains they persisted, until finally one at a time the "men folks" consented to do a little plowing, and that was the beginning of the development of what now promises to be one of the garden spots of the some day-to-be sunshine state.

Like many of the other exhibits, this display was unfortunately delayed in transit and reached here yesterday, after having been on the road almost a week, in bad condition, but it shows what the country will produce and that is all it was intended to do. Most of it was planted so thick that it had but little room to grow. The sod when plowed was too dry to pulverize, making cultivation practically impossible. In other words, the products exhibited are the result of water on this unexcelled soil without the aid of cultivation, and is a revelation to all, but to no one more surprising than to those who produced it. To Albuquerque readers, whose acquaintance with the Estancia valley is confined to the excursion over there last spring, a look at this exhibit is worth a trip to the fair grounds.

In spite of the unfavorable season just closing, and the

(Continued on 4th page.)